

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. ~~(Currently amended-Withdrawn) The use of aqueous dispersions comprising at least one at least partially neutralized ethylene copolymer wax selected from among ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, as comonomers in copolymerized form,~~

~~(A) from 26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and~~

~~(B) from 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene,~~

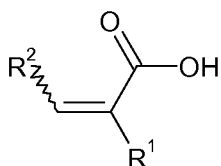
~~and ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, in copolymerized form,~~

~~(A') from 20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,~~

~~(B') from 60 to 79.4% by weight of ethylene and~~

~~(C') from 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester, as auxiliaries for wastewater treatment. A method comprising treating wastewater with an auxiliary wherein the auxiliary is the aqueous dispersion as claimed in claim 13.~~

2. ~~(Currently amended-Withdrawn) The use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid has the formula I,



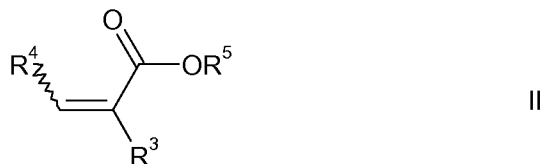
I

where the radicals are defined as follows:

R¹ is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, and

R^2 is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl.

3. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester has the formula II,



where the radicals are defined as follows:

R^3 is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl,

R^4 is selected from among hydrogen and unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl.

R^5 is selected from among unbranched or branched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl and C_3 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl.

4. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl.

5. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

6. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein R^3 is hydrogen or methyl.

7. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.

8. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by a basic alkali metal compound or an amine.

9. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by an

amine, where at least one amine is selected from ammonia, N-alkylethanolamines, alkanolamines or polyamines.

10. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) A process for the treatment of wastewater, which comprises treating wastewater with one or more dispersions of ~~claim 4~~ claim 13.

11. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) A The process according to claim 10, wherein solids which settle or float are separated off after the treatment of the wastewater with the one or more aqueous dispersions.

12. (Currently amended) A process for preparing aqueous dispersions of ~~claim 4~~ claim 13, which comprises dispersing the one or more ethylene copolymer waxes in water in the presence of at least one basic substance.

13. (Previously presented) An aqueous dispersion comprising at least one partially neutralized ethylene copolymer wax selected from ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

(B) from 26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and

(C) from 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene,

and ethylene copolymer waxes which comprise, in copolymerized form,

(A') from 20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,

(B') from 60 to 79.4% by weight of ethylene and

(C') from 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

14. (Previously presented) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

26.1 to 39% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid and 61 to 73.9% by weight of ethylene.

15. (Previously presented) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form,

20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,

79.4 to 60% by weight of ethylene and

0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

16. (Currently amended- Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by an amine, where at least one amine is selected from ammonia, N-alkylethanolamines, alkanolamines or polyamines.

17. (Currently amended-Withdrawn) ~~The use~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein at least one ethylene copolymer wax has been at least partially neutralized by an amine, where at least one amine is selected from ammonia, N-alkylethanolamines, alkanolamines or polyamines.

18. (Previously presented) An ethylene copolymer wax comprising, as comonomers in copolymerized form:

26.1 to 39% by weight acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, and 61 to 73.9% by weight ethylene; or

20.5 to 38.9% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid,

79.4 to 60% by weight of ethylene and 0.1 to 15% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic ester.

19. (Currently amended) The ethylene copolymer of claim 18, comprising a melt flow rate of 5 to 20 g/10 min. measured at 160°C under a load of 325 g ~~in accordance with EN ISO 1133~~ and an acid number of 115 to 230 mgKOH/g of wax ~~in accordance with DIN 53402~~.

20. (Currently amended) The ethylene copolymer of claim 19, comprising a density from 0.92 to 0.99 g/cm³ ~~in accordance with DIN 53429~~.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11, 16 and 17 are currently amended and withdrawn.

Claims 12, 19 and 20 are currently amended.

Claims 13-15 and 18 were previously presented.

Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-20 will be pending with claims 12-15 and 18-20 under active consideration.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the original claims.

No new matter has been added.